

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 12-14, 18-20 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 15-17, 21, 22 and 24-28 are pending in the patent application, of which claims 15, 21, 22 and 24 are independent.

With appreciation, it is noted that the Office Action indicates (see present Office Action page 8) claims 21 as containing allowable subject matter and claims 15-17, 22 and 24-28 as allowed.

Noted – Priority Document Received by USPTO

The indication (see attachments to the Office Actions mailed March 19, 2004, box 12(a)(1) as checked) that certified copy of the priority document has been received by the USPTO is noted with application.

Noted – IDS considered

The indication (see attachments to the Office Actions mailed, March 19, 2004, December 13, 2005, February 21, 2007, April 16, 2007 and October 22, 2007) that the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) as filed on February 9, 2000, September 27, 2005, June 7, 2006, October 30, 2006, July 17, 2007 and September 4, 2007 and references listed therein have been considered is noted with application.

Approval of Drawings Requested

Drawings were submitted on February 10, 2000. To date, no official indication of approval of the drawings has been noted in the prosecution history. The undersigned has no reason to believe that this circumstance implies anything other than a minor oversight on the part of the USPTO. Accordingly, official approval of the drawings is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 21 is objected to because of the informalities. By the foregoing amendments, these claims have been amended to address the objection to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 12, 13, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by

Kosaka (US 6,574,209 B1) in view of Raith (US 6,760,311 B1).

Claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Kosaka (US 6,574,209 B1) in view of Raith (US 6,760,311 B1), and further in view of Vembu (US 6,259,928 B1) and Liu et al. (US 6,252,900 B1).

Rejected claims 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 23 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. With only allowed claims pending, the application is in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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/Mehdi D. Sheikerz/

Date: ____ May 12, 2011 ____

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